

from the Garden

By Joan Pinkham

The maples redden. The blue asters and ruby sumac contrast with russet grasses along the roadside. So September is with us, bringing autumn and the joys of changing foliage. Not waiting around for our maples to turn a shimmering gold are our Monarch butterflies which migrate much as the birds do, forming companies and travel-

ing south. Ships have spotted bands of moths far out to sea, some seen a thousand miles from the nearest land. Soon we'll be hearing the honking of Canadian geese who move south with the 35 degree temperature. Then we'll know autumn is here.

The Fall season is ushered in at 10:17 a.m. on the 23rd, leaving in its wake a gardening season that was something of a challenge. Just fending

off the mosquitoes was wearying. Never have so many bitten so much. Blame them on August's humidity, for dampness breeds a mighty band of the pests. Raccoons were canny, as always, having an exquisite sense of timing, arriving during the night, just when the corn is ripe for picking. Barbara and Dick Pearson never got to their magnificent crop in time, arriving one morning to find corn stalks on the ground and each ear nibbled on. Nightly applications of red pepper to discourage the "suburban rats" and mineral oil to save the ears from borers, did little to save the favorite "Silver Queen" corn for the Dunes.

They call themselves "DIRT dirt gardeners", not "hatted gardeners" and so the North River Gardeners, a small group of only 24, could be seen on the hottest of days tending the perennial garden at the Kent House in Norwell. The antique house and grounds has been the project for many a year and delights all who see it. Just for fun, they enjoyed a trip to Cranberry World in Plymouth yesterday and their monthly programs have included a visit to Herbert Conover's magnificent acre on Common St. Ruth Andrews of Main St. devoted one program to showing slides of a recent tour of English gardens.

The South Shore Bird Club chose a chilly, windy Sunday for their walk through the Glades and along the Driftway and Third Cliff, but several unusual birds were spotted, so it was all worthwhile. Jerry Flaherty led the tour in search of shorebirds and they saw warblers passing through, a buff-breasted sandpiper on Third Cliff and through their scopes, a yellow-crowned night heron on Trouant's Island. A Baird's sandpiper was seen on the Driftway and a northern water thrush. Many

knots, blue-bellied plovers, sanderlings and a water pipit

were seen and there are still a few egrets on the marshes.

Colorama Season

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